

Appl. No. : 10/719,086
Filed : November 21, 2003

REMARKS

In response to the Final Office Action mailed April 15, 2005, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider the above-captioned application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following comments.

Request for Continued Examination

This Amendment is being filed with a Request for Continued Examination.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated that Claim 8 is in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 21, 22 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Bono (USPN 5,954,722). Claims 3-5 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Bono. Claims 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Bono in view of Howland (USPN 5,545,164). Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection of these claims. Nevertheless, to advance prosecution Applicant has amended or canceled the rejected claims as outlined below. Applicant reserves the right to pursue Claims 1-7, 9, 12-14 and 21-24 in their original or similar form in a continuing application.

Claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 2-7, 9 and 12-14 have been amended as appropriate such that they depend upon allowed Claim 8. Applicant respectfully submits that, for at least this reason, these claims are in condition for allowance.

Claim 22 now recites, in part, a soft tissue anchor comprising "a removable rotation member comprising a proximal end configured to removably engage with the flange recess and a distal end configured to removably engage with an installation tool." Applicant respectfully submits that the cited art does not disclose a soft tissue anchor with the above-noted features. Claims 23-24 depend upon Claim 22 and, for at least this reason, these claims are also in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims. Accordingly, early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is most earnestly solicited.

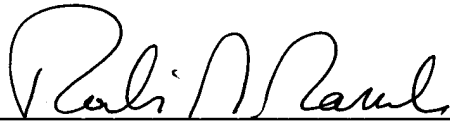
Appl. No. : 10/719,086
Filed : November 21, 2003

The undersigned has made a good faith effort to respond to all of the rejections in the case and to place the claims in condition for immediate allowance. Nevertheless, if any undeveloped issues remain or if any issues require clarification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's attorney in order to resolve such issue promptly. Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 10-14-05

By: 

Rabinder N. Narula
Registration No. 53,371
Attorney of Record
Customer No. 20,995
(949) 760-0404

1994899
101405